Dear Sam, 11/14/90

Your two letters of the 8th came yesterday when I had two middle-aged soldiers of fortune about whom I enclose a memo that understates the nature of some of the conversation. Rather oddly, I've thought, one of them has over the years referred reporters to me when they had interest in him, Hemming. He had been a leader of at least one of the illiberal political groups that regarded all who opposed US Latin American policy as Reds, he had a paramilitary organization I forgot to mention in the memo, which I began writing at 3:30 a.m., which he called, as I recall, The International Penetration Brigade. He spent years providing arms to illiberal gangs in Latin America and although I did not ask him, I believe this would have included the Contras and possibly governments, if they had the need, like others in Central America. He did fly small planes and he does have expert knowledge of rifles at the least. Lil rather enoyed their visit, too, because she'd in the past met only a couple of such types who visited here,

I also forgot to include in the memo that these characters till have and still use, why I can't imagine, an encrypting and decrypting device of World War II era, the one they brought into the house to demonstrate to me described as one used by the OSS and made by the Army's signal Corps. It was less than 3"x5"by 6" and was in perfect condition. Can you imagine this being transported all around this country and being used today?

Their surprise visit was a reminder of all the immune violations of our laws by so very many wrongly-dedicated Americans. These people lived in constant violation of, for example, the ancient Neitrality Act. With full federal knowledge of it. It was no secret that they engaged in military training for military action inside countries with which we were not at war and with all but one of which we maintained diplomatic relations. JFK did order that they be clamped down on but nothing really hurtful followed his order.

Before he switched it to what is fairly well known now, Soldier of Fortune magazine, Robert K Brown published much detailed information on a wide variety of weapons and on how to use them. Including even knives and explosives, and I recall no emphasis in his literature on not using this information inside the U.S. His enterprise was then titled "Palladin Press." He then and now was in the same location, Boulder, Colorado.

Brown was a captain in the Army reserve when he was propositioned to wholesale assassin and murder without reporting it to any authority. What happened after the FBI confirmed this proposition? He was promoted to major.

His name came up in the Iran/Contra hearings, without any effort to include any of his background and acts in the hearings, even in the questioning of the man who testified that Ollie North had sent him to confer with Brown and others whose names meant nothing to me as I heard them mentioned. The witness was the guy who was also in the so-called - well, I've forgotten its title. It was in State.

It was not because none of the committee knew anything at all about Brown because I sent some of the members copies of the FBI reports I have. No response from any one.

The witness is the guy who sang pens of praise to Ollie in his testimony, the one Ollie spent some Contra money on for a wedding present.

Hall had also been a political activist, in or leading the elections campaigns of the extremists Rousellot and/or Utt in California. He was closely aligned with Mexican fascists, among others.

There are several Larry Howards. The one connected with both Hall and Hemming is a Chicano and he is still engaged in such activities. I've forgotten what Hemming said they are when I asked him. I was tired. Aside from training with these people on No-Name Key, which as I recall is just off the Florida west coast, Howard was with Hall on at least one of three trips on which he openly transported such cargo as rifles from the west coast to Florida, for use in violation of our laws, if the transporattion alone was not also a violation. He told me that he was arrested once only, in Dallas, but the DA, when

he was my friend about 10 years ago, checked his records, or had them checked while I was with him, and denied it happened. Hall had told me that he'd pulled some radical right strings there and had it wiped out and was freed.

It is now 30 years since Castro took power and these people are still active doing the kinds of things they should never have done and they still believe it is right and proper and a form of true patriotism.

One of the things they mentioned is that in those early days, when they had little food, they got day-old Jewish rye and other bakery products from Adler's bakery in Miami.

Hemming did serve time in jail but I've forgotten why. What Hall would mimic Ollie and sell prohibited substances to raise money for the Contras does not surprise me. Nor does it that he would include his own son. He really believes that such illagal acts that are also so ~~morally~~ morally reprehensible are truly patriotic and American. It is not easy to understand this and I'm sure he is not unique in it.

There then were openly fascistic groups, especially in California, and he told me that one headed by a rufrian named Clint Wheat was one of his suppliers of arms for use abroad. Last I heard of Wheat, many years ago, he was on the lam. I do not recall the charge against him.

This tiny sample of such activity by Americans and the immunities they enjoyed, along with the support they found, including from public officials and the wealthy, may seem strange and not like us to those who've never had any contact with those I think of as the dedicated wrong. But they mimic official policies. They did in their anti-Castro activity, for example. And then there is the story I'll enclose from today's Wx Post, headed "CIA Organized Secret Army in Western Europe." It should have been plural from the story, which may or may not have appeared in the Times and elsewhere. By "western" the story includes virtaully every country not behind the Iron Curtain. As you'll see there is extensive official corroboration in several countries. And that the military supplies provided by the CIA disappeared from time to time and were used by extremists. I am reminded of the killing of the leftist Italian publisher who published me, Giangiaccomo Feltrinelli because I wondered at the time if he was assassinated by CIA-related rightist extremists. One of thosei involved in such activities in Italy says he quit them when he learned they were to engage in political assassinations.

As Brandeis (or was it Cardoza?) said, for good or ill the government is teacher of us all.

I've wandered again. I'll resume response to you letter later. You did refer to the election of Wellstone to the Senate from Minnesota. It happens that there is a long story about him and the campaign he waged in this morning's Style section of the Post. It is enclosed.

Best,